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Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 13 | Number 23 | December 3, 2019

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Alsip mayor announces tax appeal news

by Jan Glaz

On November 18th at the Village of Alsip Board of Trustees Meeting, Mayor John Ryan announced that he received notification from Dan Patlak, Cook County Board of Review Commissioner: 1st District, that the Worth Township Office at 11601 S. Pulaski Road, is now open for board of review property tax assessment appeals until December 17, 2019.

Mayor Ryan reported that (2) property assessment appeal seminars will be held for residents of Worth Township to appeal their 2019 assessment. No registration is required: The first seminar is at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 9th at the Worth Township Office and the second seminar at 6:00 p.m. will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at the Oak Lawn Village Hall, 9446 Raymond Avenue.

For those who cannot attend the seminars, Dan Patlak stated that his staff is available to provide information on how the assessment appeal process works and to answer inquiries. Please visit www.danpatlak.com or phone Dan Patlak's office at (312) 603-3651. Appeals may be filed online, if you have not filed online previously you will need to create an account and you must have an email address.

Noteworthy news: Mayor Ryan reported an update in regard to Senate Bill 3899 and Alsip's casino



Dan Patlak, Cook County Board of Review Commissioner: 1st District, above, has told Alsip Mayor John Ryan that the Worth Township Office is open for board review of property tax assessment appeals until Dec. 17.

revenue share should a casino be built in the south suburbs. "Originally, Alsip was left off the list of towns and should have been on. We did receive an endorsement from the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and a discussion on this matter will not take place until January, 2020, when the House of Representatives reconvenes.

"Apparently when the Chicago Mayor discussed their plans for a Chicago casino the House of Representatives schedule was pushed around a bit. This matter is not an immediate necessity because the gaming commission has up to one year to decide which town will have the opportunity for a south suburban casino. An amendment has been made to the original Bill 3899 and Alsip is included and will be presented back to the House of Representative at a future date."

7th Annual Holiday on Pulaski

The Village of Alsip will be hosting the 7th Annual Holiday on Pulaski on Friday, Dec. 6, from 5:30 to 9p.m. Local businesses welcome shoppers to Pulaski by decorating their store fronts/windows, playing Christmas music outside their stores and offering coupons, refreshments, giveaways and raffles.

Some of the planned attractions between 115th and 120th on Pulaski include carriage rides, Toy Story 4 characters, a trackless train, photo booth, a heated kids' activities tent, Letters to Santa, Traveling World of Reptiles, ice carvings, Craft vendors and even an indoor ice rink for kids to skate. The event begins at 5:30pm with the Christmas Tree Lighting event along with a performance by the Prairie Junior High Band/Choir at

Veterans Plaza, 118th and Pulaski.

A detailed schedule and map can be found at the Village website, Villageofalsip.org

Southwest Symphony Orchestra offers Holiday Gifts of Music

The Southwest Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of David L. Crane, will present "Holiday Gifts of Music" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6. The SSO collaborates with the St. Damian's Music Ministry, Tony Berardi, Director, and the Oak Lawn Park District's Voices of the Valley, Stacy Cunningham, Director, to present a holiday program.

The concert is located at St. Damian's Church, 5250 155th St., Oak Forest. On Sunday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m. the

Southwest Symphony Orchestra, will join with the St. George Music Ministry under the direction of Robert Mockus, and the Voices of the Valley to present Holiday Gifts of Music at St. George Church, 6707 W. 175th St., Tinley Park.

These collaborations between local Music Ministries and the Southwest Symphony Orchestra have become a regular holiday tradition. Start your season on a joyful note with a program of holiday favorites!

Ticket prices for both concerts are \$20.00 for adults/seniors, \$7.00 for students, children 10 and under are free. Both concerts are partially supported by Busey Bank and the Illinois Arts Council.

The nonprofit Southwest Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1964 and serves audiences throughout the south and southwest suburban communities. Learn more at southwestsymphony.com, call 708-802-0686 or email southwestsymphony@gmail.com for more information.

Festival of Trees in Midlothian

It's that time of year again to prepare for the 2019 edition of the "Festival of Trees" on the Village Green. In keeping with the theme of our Village gazebo, all the trees will be decorated with white lights which will be provided by the Midlothian Beautification Committee.

The trees will need to be decorated by Saturday, Dec. 7 at dusk. The tree lighting ceremony will take place following the annual Santa Parade and will finish at the Village Green, 147th Street at Springfield, Midlothian. For more information call 708-389-0200.

We hope that you will join our Beautification Committee in making our Village Green a "White Christmas" for 2019. All the best for a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year!

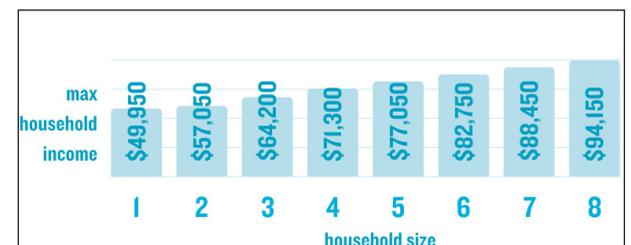
Free weatherization upgrades available for some residents

The free Energy Upgrades program from the Chicagoland Vintage Home Association (CVHA) provides weatherization upgrades through the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program — insulation, air sealing, health and safety measures, and installation of energy-saving products to income-eligible owners of vintage homes. Energy Upgrades (a value of upwards of \$7,000) are now available to eligible Blue Island residents!

Do you qualify based on the following criteria?

- Vintage single-family home built at least 30 years ago
- Home must be owner occupied and receive electric delivery service from ComEd
- Home must be located in Oak Forest, Midlothian, Lansing, Posen, Crestwood, Thornton, Calumet City or Blue Island.
- Household income of 80% Area Median Income (AMI). Income is based on household size, see chart.

Past program recipients are experiencing significant



utility bill savings. Since 2018, recipients have reported gas bill savings up to 50% and electric bill savings between 20% and 30%. Joyce G. recently participated in the free Energy Upgrades program, and it's paying off! Joyce shares, "The temperature in my home is consistent now. No cold spots or drafty places, especially upstairs! My home is warmer and more comfortable."

Join hundreds of south suburban homeowners in adapting your vintage home to lower your energy bills, make your home more comfortable, add value and extend the life of your home at zero cost to you.

It's simple to apply online at chicagolandvintagehomes.org/apply. Feel free to call CVHA if you have any questions or to request a paper application at 312.675.0300 x10.



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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 17 | Number 23 | December 3, 2019

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park



La Machiocana Azteca Ice Cream Shop will be located at 99173 and 9177 W. 151st St. in Orland Park.

Panera Bread constructs new restaurant in Orland Park

by Jan Glaz

The Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees agreed on November 18th, to approve a request by Rashad Palmer, Panera, LLC, to construct a 4,528 square foot restaurant building with a drive-thru for 'Panera Bread' on a 1.065-acre parcel of land located at 7410 West 159th Street.

The proposed site plan for the restaurant consists of (45) parking spaces, a drive-thru lane located to the east of the building, an outdoor seating area that will be constructed of permeable pavement, and new landscaped areas. The site plan also indicates that three cross access drives are proposed along the east property line to connect the adjacent property to the east, currently occupied by 'Freddy's Frozen Custard' at 7402 West 159th Street, a restaurant with a drive-thru facility. Mitch Glotz, a representative for Panera

Bread, stated that as a result of building the Panera Bread at 7410 West 159th Street, the existing Panera Bread, 15845 Harlem Avenue, will close, as it does not provide for drive-thru service. In other board meeting news: A 'Special Use Permit' met with approval for 'La Michiocana Azteca Ice Cream Shop' to be located at 9173 and 9177 West 151st Street, subject to conditions as stated in the Orland Park ordinance for a restaurant within 300 feet of a residential parcel of land. Trustees voted to accept a price proposal utilizing the 'Suburban Purchasing Cooperative' of Frankfort Illinois, or the purchase of (1) "2020 Ford Transit-350 AWD" medium roof van with installed aftermarket equipment, for an amount not to exceed \$61,800.22. The vehicle is for the Orland Park Police Department and replaces a year 2000 prisoner transportation vehicle.

Mokena passes 2019 tax levy

by Jan Glaz

Officials in Mokena adopted the 2019 Village of Mokena tax levy on November 25th at the Village of Mokena Board of Trustees Meeting. Prior to voting, Mokena Finance Director, Barbara Damron, shared information in regard to the levy. Barbara Damron reported that the aggregate (operating) levy over the 2018 extension amounted to \$24,522.00 or 1.24%. The operating levy is the corporate and special purpose levy (other than debt service) utilized for Police Pension, Social Security, Medicare, Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, etc. as well as General Corporate Functions.

The increase of \$24,522.00 will result in a total tax levy of \$2,006,427.00. The levy to Mokena residents is approximately \$0.2387 per \$100.00 of equalized assessed value (EVA). The Village's portion of an overall tax bill is only about 4% and would equate to approximately \$246.00 for a home with a 2018 market value of \$300,000.00.

Summing up the levy, the Village's 2019 property tax levy is tax neutral for local property owners, provides additional revenues for pensions and retirement obligations. Barbara Dam-

ron stated, "The equalized assessed value overall will increase by approximately \$34 million. By comparison, the Village has increased its levy by about \$48,519.00 or 2.85% over the last (10) years.

The Village is more conservative this year due to overall concerns about the economy and its impact on residents. As in previous years, the Village of Mokena continues to maintain the lowest current municipal tax rate of 23 Will County communities." Questions regarding the 2019 Tax Levy may be directed to Barbara Damron at 708-479-3900.

Noteworthy news: Mokena presenters Jim Hogan and Billy Kordick announced an ongoing Village event. "The Giving Tree" hosted by William Martin, VFW Post 725, 19852 Wolf Road, throughout the holidays. Every day during the VFW post's hours of operation the community is asked to come to the Post and take an ornament from the tree showing items needed by veterans at Manteno and then bring those items back to the Post to be delivered to Manteno.

For further information please contact Jim Hogan at 708-479-8342 or visit www.vfwpost725.org

Southwest Symphony Orchestra presents Holiday Gifts of Music

On Friday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m., the Southwest Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of David L. Crane, presents a program titled Holiday Gifts of Music. The SSO collaborates with the St. Damian's Music Ministry, Tony Berardi, Director, and the Oak Lawn Park District's Voices of the Val-

ley, Stacy Cunningham, Director, to present a holiday program.

The concert is located at St. Damian's Church, 5250 155th St., Oak Forest. On Sunday, Dec. 8 at 4:00 p.m. the Southwest Symphony Orchestra, will join with the St. George Music Ministry under the direction



Professional carolers will treat Tinley park residents this holiday season.

Carolers to kick off holidays

Gather the family and head to Downtown Tinley from Dec. 6 to 8 for the Village's annual Holiday Happenings event featuring parades, live music, shopping, photos with Santa Claus and much more!

The weekend will kick off with the Community Tree-Lighting Ceremony at 6:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 in Zabrocki Plaza, 17375 S. Oak Park Ave. Arrive early at 5:30 p.m. for a community sing-a-long to holiday music. This year, professional crooners from the Chicago Carolers group will lead a sing-a-long to all your holiday favorites! It'll be an old-fashioned good

time that harkens back to the turn-of-the-century holidays of yesteryear.

Other activities include the Holiday Market all weekend inside a large heated tent in the north parking lot of the Oak Park Avenue train station, as well as the Tinley Toyland Parade, Photos with Santa, live holiday music, an ice-carving demonstration, the Parade of Lights, old-fashioned carriage rides and more!

For more information, please visit the Village's Special Events at https://www.tinleypark.org/government/departments/marketing_department/special_events.php.

of Robert Mockus, and the Voices of the Valley to present Holiday Gifts of Music at St. George Church, 6707 W. 175th St., Tinley Park.

These collaborations between local Music Ministries and the Southwest Symphony Orchestra have become a regular Holiday tradition. Start your holiday

season on a joyful note with a program of holiday favorites!

Ticket prices for both concerts are \$20.00 for adults/seniors, \$7.00 for students, children 10 and under are free. Both concerts are partially supported by Busey Bank and the Illinois Arts Council.



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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 20 | Number 23 | December 3, 2019

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

Palos Heights negotiates 9% insurance savings

by Jan Glaz

On November 19th at the City of Palos Heights Council Meeting Alderman Michael McGrogan, Chairperson for the City's Finance Department, motioned to approve a health insurance renewal policy with United Healthcare for the year 2020 and the council agreed. Palos Heights Mayor, Robert Starz, commented that the City saved at least 9%, if not more, on the 2020 premium.



City of Palos Heights Alderman, 4th Ward, Michael McGrogan, helped negotiate a price reduction with United Health Care.

Alderman McGrogan thanked the Finance Committee stating that the City received a quote from United Health Care and from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. After receiving the bid from Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the Finance Committee went back to United Health Care to negotiate and the company not only matched the Blue Cross and Blue Shield bid, but they undercut it.

Noteworthy news: May-

or Straz announced the date for the City's Annual Kris Kringle Market. It will be held on Friday, December 6th, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 7th, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Parking Lot, 12221 S. Harlem Avenue. "This is a huge event in the City of Palos Heights," said the Mayor.

Alderman Jerry McGovern, Chairperson for the Public Safety Department, announced a new wide-

spread scam targeting U.S. Veterans. The scammer uses sophisticated technology that generates Veteran Administration operated signatures thus giving the impression to caller ID that the veteran is receiving a telephone call from the Veterans Administration.

Alderman McGovern stated, "Veterans will receive the following on their caller ID: Department of Veterans Affairs and the ID phone number 800-827-1000. The scammer claims to be veteran personnel, uses scripted material and will request veterans or their family to verify their personal information. The veteran scam is of great concern to veterans, their wives or widows. Be aware that this is going on and never give personal information over the phone." In regard to this matter please visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/veterans-targeted-benefits-scams>.



Susan Van Amerongen and her mother, Alice Molo, meet with scholarship recipients (from left) Jennifer Occamp, Ksenia Sandaras, Trevon Velasco, Krista McCurrie, Tahani Joudeh and Kimberly DeLaTorre

Moraine Valley grad helping other students pay

A Moraine Valley Community College Nursing Program graduate returned to campus to meet the students to whom scholarships were awarded thanks to her generosity.

Susan Van Amerongen, who now lives in Ohio, funded scholarships for five students this year. The number grew to 10 because the Foundation Board was matched the donation.

"I turned 60 and wanted to do something spectacular for my birthday," Van Amerongen said. "I thought about all the things I could do and trips I could take, but I decided to give back to Moraine Valley because nursing is at the heart of what I am, and Moraine Valley is where I got my start."

Van Amerongen named the scholarships on behalf of her parents, Steve and Alice Molo, a gesture she wanted to do because of the support she received from them. "My parents sacrificed a lot to get four kids, all born within five years, through Catholic schools," she said. "I was

a first-generation college student. There's no way I would have been able to go through nursing school without huge loans unless I had worked and gone to school, which is exactly what I did. Our goal is to lessen the load for students who are doing that now."

Van Amerongen contacted Kristy McGreal, Foundation executive director, to help her fulfill her birthday wish and set up the guidelines for the scholarships. Her scholarship recipients must be first-generation college students and studying to become a nurse.

She said she was happy for the opportunity to meet her scholarship recipients. "It was very exciting to talk with them. They are all trying to work, go to school and balance everything, which is exactly what I did."

One of the recipients, Kimberly De La Torre, is grateful for the scholarship, acknowledging it is what helped her be able to attend school. "College in general always seemed out of reach. Kids in my community didn't have dreams

of having professional careers. We were taught to do enough to get by," she said. "The only reason I was able to attend college is because of scholarships."

Krista McCurrie put her goals of becoming a nurse on hold when her father was diagnosed with cancer. While it was a difficult time for her family, she said she knew right then she wanted to become a nurse and help other families facing health challenges. "I plan to work in oncology and give back the same positive and encouraging nursing care that my father received," she said. "This scholarship is helping me achieve my goals, but more importantly is helping me make a difference in the lives of others."

McGreal said she was pleased Van Amerongen could come to the college and meet her scholarship recipients. "It's wonderful to see the passion Susan developed for nursing during her time at Moraine Valley and has returned to support the dreams of our nursing students," she said.

Free admission to planetarium

Spend a day at one of Chicago's top cultural institutions, the Adler Planetarium, for FREE! Illinois residents will receive free museum entry with proof of residency on Dec. 7 and Dec. 12-13, and may upgrade to a Museum Entry +1 or Museum Entry +2 pass at a discounted price to gain access to any of our breathtaking sky shows.

Be among the first guests to enjoy our new permanent exhibition Chicago's Night Sky. Included with museum en-

try, this brand-new exhibition will help connect you—and the city around you—to the wondrous human tradition of looking up. Chicago's Night Sky features real science and research from several of the Adler's signature programs and initiatives, including Far Horizons, Youth Organization for Lights Out, and Zooniverse. Guests can add on a tour of our recently renovated, historic Atwood Sphere experience for \$5.

For more information about the museum at 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive and to plan your visit, please visit adlerplanetarium.org.

Christmastime in Palos

Celebrate the 15th Annual Christmastime in Palos sponsored by the Friends of the Palos Heights Library and First Midwest Bank. Bring the family to this special holiday event, on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1p.m.. Featuring music and sing-alongs, special programs for children and adults, auction & book sale along with snacks and refreshments provided by local businesses.

Everyone is welcome to stop by the library at 12501 S 71st Ave.



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SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 46 | Number 11 | December 3, 2019

Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

Evergreen Park says no to cannabis dispensaries

by Matt Mayer

The Evergreen Board of Trustees voted against an ordinance amending the municipal code by providing for the regulation of cannabis organizations and tax. The existing ordinance does not allow for the sale of recreational cannabis operations to open in the village. The vote was against adding an amendment to allow the sale of recreational cannabis from a dispensary located in any zoning district within the village. This past spring the Illinois General Assembly passed the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act which was signed into law by Governor J.B. Pritzker. The act, which is effective Jan 1, 2020, allows anyone age 21 or older to purchase and use marijuana which will be considered a lawful product. However, the state left it up to individual municipalities to decide if they will allow sales.

In other business, a request from Police Chief Michael Saunders to declare a vacancy in the police department and authorize the hiring of one individual from the probationary patrol officer eligibility list due to the retirement of Deputy Chief John Eisenbeis was approved as well as a request to authorize an opening of one sergeant position in reference to a list of names by the Fire and Police Commission.

Appointments and promotions to the police department are as follows: Peter Donovan appointed to Deputy Chief of Police, David Linn promoted to Lieutenant and Andrew

Switalski promoted to Sergeant.

A request from Saunders to purchase 6 police vehicles and trade in two 2016 Ford Explorers was approved as well as a request to order a new pumper for the Fire Department at a reasonable cost. A request for the payment of membership dues for the Illinois Municipal League was also approved.

An ordinance granting a special use permit to allow the expansion of a 7-Eleven convenience store with vehicle fuel dispensing on the property located in the "C" commercial district at 2747-2759 W. 95th St was approved.

The following business licenses were approved: Steve's Auto Service (automobile services) at 9117 S. Kedzie Ave and Reliable Home Health Care Inc. (home health care services) at 3900 W. 95th St, Suites 9 through 11.

In other matters, the Evergreen Park Recreation Department Candle Light Theater will present a 1940's Radio Christmas performance on Friday Dec 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Tickets are available through the Recreation Department. A Dickens Christmas Festival will be held on Saturday, Dec 7 from 2:00 p.m to 7:00 p.m. at 97th and Homan.

The Annual Christmas Concert of the City Lights Orchestra will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Most Holy Redeemer Church. Tickets are available through the Recreation Department.



Musichorale will hold "A Winter Night," its 73rd annual Noel Christmas concert, at 3:20 p.m. Sunday at Trinity Christian College's Ozinga Auditorium in Palos Heights.

Musichorale's Noel Concert Dec. 8

Musichorale invites you to warm up with songs of the season at "A Winter Night," the community choir's 73rd annual Noel Christmas concert.

Under the direction of Mrs. Sarah Silhan-Koehler, this festive performance at 3:20 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, includes traditional carols and familiar Christmas melodies along with beautiful arrangements of songs about winter. This year's concert also features excerpts from the beautiful and moving Cantatas written exclusively for Musichorale by Phyllis Silhan

in tribute to her years of musical artistry and commitment to the choir.

Tickets may be bought in advance for \$15 from any Musichorale member, by calling 773-239-6279, or online at www.musichorale.org (look for the "Buy Now" button). Tickets will be available at the door for \$17.

The show is at Trinity Christian College's Ozinga Auditorium, 6601 W. College Drive (Rte. 83) in Palos Heights.

Please call for information about special pricing for organizations and churches with groups of 10 or more. The auditorium is fully handicap accessible with no stairs to navigate and free valet parking is available.

Justice engages National Power Rodding

by Jan Glaz

Officials in the Village of Justice voted in favor of Trustee Jeffrey Allen's request to ratify a cost proposal from National Power Rodding, 2500 West Arthington Street, Chicago, for cleaning and televising of sanitary sewers and laterals. The expense for the project was approved at \$550.00 per

hour at a rate not to exceed 1.5 days. There is an additional charge of \$100.00 for debris removal.

A sewer lateral is the underground pipe that connects a residence or business to a main sewer line. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that lateral sewer lines account for 75% of the infiltration of groundwater into main sewer lines.

Leaking laterals cause treatment plants to treat a higher-than-anticipated volume of water, resulting in

Oak Lawn senior named Eagle Scout



Oak Lawn Community High School congratulates senior Tomas Walsh on his promotion to Eagle Scout.

On Nov. 24, Tomas Walsh was officially named Eagle Scout after a combined 12 years as both a Cub Scout and Boy Scout of Troop

619. In addition to Tomas' scouting experience, he was a camp counselor at the YMCA Camp MacLean in Burlington, Wisconsin.

At school, Tomas is a leader and a vital member of the volleyball, speech, and drama teams. Tomas works at a restaurant part-time to help fund his college education. After high school, Tomas intends to pursue a nursing degree at UIC and join the National Guard. Eagle Scout is the highest achievement attainable in the Scouts BSA program of the Boy Scouts of America.

Ice Arena fun

The Ice Arena in Oak Lawn is offering free admission to the annual "HollyDays" Figure Skating Exhibition on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 1:30 to 5 p.m.

You can also register for the Kids' Countdown Skate Camp to be held Dec. 26-27 and 30-31. Kids will perform Dec. 31 at the Ice Arena, 9320 S. Kenton Ave.

Go toolparks.com/parks-facilities/ice-arena or call 708-857-2222 for more information.

higher treatment costs and higher customer fees. Eliminating the extra cost of treating infiltration the Village will more than compensate for the investment expense needed to inspect and repair sanitary sewers and laterals.

National Power Rodding is a company that uses state of the art technology when televising sanitary sewers and laterals. A video camera is inserted into a sewer/drain line and the camera head can be positioned to determine where an issue is. A copy of the video, upon

request, is provided.

In other official news: The board of trustees approved (2) reimbursements. A reimbursement to Village Clerk, Suzanne Small, for expenses incurred for mileage, parking and meals, for the 2019 Clerk's seminar/training in the amount of \$314.17; and a reimbursement to Trustee, Melanie Kuban, for the registration fees for herself and Economic Development Director, Matthew Zarebczan, to attend the Illinois Municipal League conference in the amount of \$330.00.

Illinois Tollway Seeks Firms for Upcoming Work on Move Illinois Capital Program Project

The Illinois Tollway announced that it is seeking firms to provide design and management services for 13 new contracts for its 15-year, \$14 billion capital program Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future.

The contracts included in the Professional Services Bulletin 19-3 will provide for an upcoming estimated \$130 million in contracts related to the Tollway's Move Illinois Program.

Contracts being advertised today include:

- Five construction management contracts for mainline and interchange construction as part of the new I-490 Tollway.
- Three construction management contracts for mainline construction as part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project.
- One design upon request contract for the Central Tri-State Tollway Project
- One contract for system wide stream crossing inspection services.
- One design upon request contract.

· One construction management upon request contract.

· One geotechnical services upon request contract.

Firms interested in submitting a proposal can visit the "Doing Business" section on the Tollway's website www.illinoistollway.com for more information. Submissions are due December 16, 2019, with a contract expected to be awarded by the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors in 2020. Work is expected to begin next year.

Illinois Tollway professional engineering services contracts are selected in accordance with the qualifications-based selection process (Illinois Public Act 87-673 (30 ILCS 535/1-535/80) Architectural, Engineering and Land Surveying Qualifications-Based Selection Act), which requires state agencies to select professional architects, engineers and surveyors on the basis of demonstrated competence and professional qualifications. Construction con-

tracts for Illinois Tollway projects are competitively bid under the rules of the Illinois Procurement Code. All contracts are presented to the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors for review and approval.

The Illinois Tollway provides detailed information about current Tollway construction and professional engineering services contracts through the Construction Contract

Tracker on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com. Contractors and consultants can also access resources online to help them learn about how to do business with the Tollway, including construction bid-letting schedules, professional service bulletins, manuals and construction bid calendars. These resources can be found in the "Doing Business" section of the Tollway's website.

Oak Lawn VFW Honors Police and Fire

Recently the Oak Lawn Fire Dept. Bureau Chief, Sharon Januszewski and Oak Lawn Police Detective Katie Gologly, were named the Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year by the Johnson-Phelps VFW and Auxiliary at their annual Police and Fire Recognition Night.



Pictured L-R - VFW Post Cmdr. Rick Luemen, Police Chief William Palmer, Police Detective Januszewski, Fire Dept. Bureau Chief, Gologly, Fire Chief Michael Margrove, VFW Aux. Pres. Maureen Luemen.

Police Board Opens Nationwide Search Chicago Police Superintendent

Chicago Police Board President Ghian Foreman announced that the application for the position of Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department is now available on the Police Board's website at ChicagoPoliceBoard.org.

"The application will allow the Board to identify the best possible candidates. We are going beyond résumés by requiring each applicant to discuss in detail their experience in leading proactive crime-reduction initiatives, significant advances in training and accountability, and proven strategies for increasing trust between police officers and the communities they serve," said President Foreman.

An essential part of the search process will be a series of listening sessions the Board will

hold across the City. "As we prepare to reach out to potential applicants, review applications, and interview top candidates, we want to hear directly from Chicagoans their views on the qualifications and experience we should be looking for in the next Superintendent," said President Foreman.

Schedule of Upcoming Listening Sessions

Monday, December 9, Trinity United Church of Christ, 400 West 95th Street

Wednesday, December 11, Muslim Community Center, 4380 North Elston Avenue

Thursday, December 12, JLM Community Center, 2622 West Jackson Boulevard

All sessions will be from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, with doors opening at 5:30pm.

As required by city

ordinance, when there is a vacancy in the Superintendent's position, the Police Board is responsible for nominating three candidates for consideration by the Mayor.

Prospective candidates will have until Monday, January 13, to apply for the position. Following a thorough review of all applications, the Board will conduct in-depth interviews of the best-qualified candidates. The Board will then nominate three finalists for the position to the Mayor. The names of the three nominees that the Board submits to the Mayor will be made public.

Assessment Appeal Seminars for Worth Township

Commissioner Patlak has scheduled two assessment appeal seminars in Worth Township next month. The Village of Chicago Ridge is co-sponsoring these events.

1). Monday, December 9, 2019

Worth Township Office
Small Gym
11601 S. Pulaski Rd.
Alsip, IL 60803
Time: 6:00 PM

2). Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Worth Twp
Oak Lawn Village Hall
9446 Raymond Ave,
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
Time: 6:00 PM

Village of Midlothian - Cannabis Dispensary Survey

We want to hear from YOU!

On January 1, 2020 recreational use and sale of cannabis will be legal in the State of Illinois. Under the new law, local municipalities may opt out of allowing recreational cannabis dispensaries. The law allows municipalities to tax recreational dispensaries up to 3%.

Please make your vote count and take this survey by Friday, December 13, 2019. You will receive a postcard in the mail regarding completing this survey online.

If you aren't able to complete it online please bring the postcard into Village Hall with your name and address printed on it so that it can be included in the count.

There can only be one vote per postcard. Copies of the survey will also be available.

***Your vote will not count without your name and address. Midlothian Residents ONLY.

To complete the survey. <https://www.proprofs.com/survey/t/?title=village-of-midlothian-survey>

Public Hearing Prohibition of Adult Use Cannabis Businesses

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: REGARDING A PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF ADULT USE CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, PURSUANT TO 410 ILCS 705/55-25 OF THE CANNABIS REGULATION AND TAX ACT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Oak Lawn, Cook County, Illinois on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Village of Oak Lawn Village Hall located at 9446 S. Raymond, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453, to discuss whether the Village should prohibit adult use cannabis establishments other than medical cannabis cultivation centers and medical cannabis dispensing organizations.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard.

Proud member of following Chambers

Alsip Chamber of Commerce www.alsipchamber.org	Justice Chamber of Commerce www.villageofjustice.org
Bedford Park-Clearing Industrial Association www.bpcia.org	Oak Forest-Crestwood Area Chamber - The OC Chamber of Commerce www.oc-chamber.org
Blue Island Chamber of Commerce & Industry www.blueislandchamber.org	Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce www.oaklawnchamber.com
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The Hills Chamber of Commerce www.thehillschamber.org	United Business Association of Midway www.ubam.org

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Owner/Editor/Publisher Annette Dixon
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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

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708-498-4320



For the 16th straight year, "Christmas Trees from Around the World" are being displayed at the office of Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas. More than 90 trees, a creche, a Kwanzaa Kinara, a Hindu Prayer Thali and a Jewish Menorah will be on display until Jan. 2 in Room 112 of the Cook County Building in downtown Chicago.

Treasurer celebrates holiday traditions with global Christmas tree display

More than 90 Christmas trees and religious displays that show different ways of celebrating the holidays are on display in the downtown Chicago office of Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas.

This is the 16th year of "Christmas Trees from Around the World," the display of 3-foot-high trees which are decorated by members of ethnic and religious communities to represent their heritage. Also, on display on counters in the Treasurer's Office are a Christian Nativity scene, an African American Kwanzaa Kinara, a Hindu Prayer Thali and a Jewish Menorah.

"Diversity is a great strength of the Chicago area, as shown by the way different groups celebrate the holiday season," Pappas said.

"We are stronger as a community when we learn about and respect religions, cultures and heritages that are different from our own."

The trees are adorned not only with ornaments, tinsel and lights, but also animals, flowers, fruit, balls, candles, plates, boats, stars, flags, dolls and other items. The display will be up from now until Jan. 2 in Room 112 of the Cook County Building, 118 N. Clark St., Chicago.

The countries and traditions represented by the trees include: African American, Albania, Armenia, Assyrian, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Barbie Doll, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cajun-New Orleans, Canada,

Canada-Quebec, China, Colombia, Cornwall, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, England, Estonia, Ethiopia. Also represented: Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hawaii, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kosovo, Laos, Lebanon, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Mexico, Native American, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine, United States, Uruguay, Vietnam, Venezuela and Wales.

fruits from the Great Lakes Naval Base. These men and woman are not able to be at home with their love ones for the holidays, so we try and make them feel welcome here at the "V". It is a very rewarding event for all of us that contribute each year. If there are any businesses or organizations out there that would like to contribute or if you would personally like to

contribute your time or maybe make a financial contribution, please contact Nick at 773-519-1142. The recruits arrive around 11am and depart around 5pm. If you have some free time, please stop on by. We know you will leave with some wonderful memories and the satisfaction that you helped create some great memories for these young cadets.

VFW to host 'Christmas With the Recruits'

Come join us Christmas Day for our annual "Christmas With the Recruits" celebration, organized and put on by the American Veterans Motorcycle Riders Association in conjunction with our Post for re-

Metra holding safety poster, essay contest

For the 14th straight year, Metra asked the region's students to illustrate through posters or essays the importance of safe behaviors near railroad tracks and rail crossings. The theme for the 2019-2020 school year: "Obey the Signs" emphasizes the importance of looking for and obeying signs and control devices that are installed along the railroad tracks and at rail crossings.

The contest is open to all students in grades K through 12 living or attending school in Metra's six-county service area: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will. The deadline for all entries is Friday, Jan. 31, 2020.

One first-, second- and third-place winner will be selected from each grade, K through 12, and awarded the following prizes:

- First Place: iPad
- Second Place: \$250 gift card
- Third Place: \$100 gift card

Visit metracontest.com to see the work of past contest winners, news coverage about the contest, review Contest Rules, and find out how to submit your entry.





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Chicago's World Largest Rooftop Bar called Offshore at Navy Pier

by Annette Dixon

For the winter this Offshore Restaurant and bar would be great and very enjoyable for many events. You can bring your out of town guests to an unusual place and brag about your Chicago largest rooftop bar making the Guinness World Record Title. It is seriously at the end of the pier but availability is easily accessible indoors. It sits on the third floor of Navy Pier and has an exciting view from floor to ceiling glass windows and doors leading to an outside deck with individually accented fireplace.

This place is the size of a football field and the bar is 52,310.29sq. ft. that is



At 52,310.29sq. ft., Offshore at Navy Pier is the world's largest rooftop bar.

why it made the title for the world's largest rooftop bar. The cocktails have exciting names, but, they certainly make for a good drink. Ask for a Glampfire with Jameson, Grapefruit, Marshmallow, Lemon or Dark Side of the Moon. With a bar the size of this, they certainly would have

the drink you are favoring. Some people enjoyed the cocktails and were introduced to a menu which was to difficult to refuse. I enjoyed their sharing plate with Maine Lobster Deviled Eggs and Ahi Tuna Tartare. Check out their menu with facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with /

drinkoffshore, #drinkoffshore, @drinkoffshore

Offshore is open Monday through Thursday 4 p.m. to midnight, Friday from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to midnight. For more information, log onto drinkoffshore.com



(NAPS)—For a fast, easy and delicious one-pot meal, few dishes can beat a jambalaya. Created by the unique blend of cultures that make up New Orleans cuisine, jambalaya is both satisfying and simple to make using whatever you happen to have on hand (thus excellent for that “end-of-week-clean-out-the-fridge-meal”). Known for its bold flavor and versatility, there's no wrong way to make this crowd-pleaser.

“Jambalaya is a one-pot meal that combines elements of our French, Spanish, African and Acadian heritage,” explains New Orleans culinary authority and cookbook author Poppy Tooker. “Every jambalaya starts with what is often called the ‘trinity’ of seasoning vegetables—celery, onion and bell pepper—and, of course, rice and sig-

nature spices. Where you go from there is really up to you. Add seafood, smoked sausage, chicken or whatever you have on hand.”

Try this recipe for Classic Jambalaya:

Original Jambalaya
Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 25 minutes
Servings: 6

Ingredients
2 ½ cups water
1 package (8 ounces) Zatarain's® Original Jambalaya Mix
1 pound smoked sausage, thinly sliced*

Cooking directions
1. Mix water, Rice Mix and meat of your choice in large saucepan until well blended. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 25 minutes or until most of the water is absorbed and rice is tender.

2. Remove from heat. Let stand 5 minutes. Fluff with fork before serving.

For richer flavor: Add 1 tablespoon vegetable oil with the water.

*Suggested Substitutions:
1 pound cubed, cooked or rotisserie chicken, cubed

ham or peeled and deveined shrimp, cut into bite-size pieces (add shrimp during the last 10 minutes of cooking time and cook just until shrimp turn pink.). Stir in sautéed vegetables like bell pepper, tomatoes, and sliced green onions just before serving.



Strawberry Crisp
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 45 minutes
Total Time: 1 hour
Servings: 8

Ingredients
For topping:
2/3 cup old fashioned oats
2/3 cup flour of choice
6 Tbsp cold butter (or coconut oil)
2 Tbsp granulated sugar
2 Tbsp brown sugar
¼ tsp ground cinnamon
½ cup walnuts, chopped

For filling:
4½ cups frozen unsweet-

ened whole strawberries, thawed and chopped
3 Tbsp cornstarch
¼ cup maple syrup
1 Tbsp lemon juice
1 tsp vanilla extract

Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 375°.
- Add the dry topping ingredients to a large bowl and mix well.

- Use forks or a pastry cutter to mix in the butter, mixing until clumps form. Place the topping mixture in the refrigerator while making the filling.

- In a large bowl, mix together the thawed and chopped strawberries, cornstarch, maple syrup, lemon juice, and vanilla. Stir until they are well combined.

- Place the filling into a 9x9 baking dish or a skillet.

- Sprinkle the topping evenly over the strawberries.

- Bake the crisp for about 40–50 minutes, or until the topping is golden brown and the fruit is bubbling.

- Remove from the oven and let cool.

- Serve with vanilla ice cream or frozen yogurt and enjoy!

United Methodist Women to hold Cookie Bonanz

The United Methodist Women at First United Methodist Church of Oak Lawn, 100th Street and Central Ave., are having a Cookie Bonanza and Christmas Shop. It will be held on Saturday, December 7th, from 9 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. All the cookies are home-made.

Buy your cookies now and freeze them for the holidays. You can give them as a hostess gift to family and friends or serve them now. They cost only \$10 a pound. Also, there will be a Christmas Shop which will feature a variety of Christmas items for your

home and for gifts. For more info, call 708-423-1170.

More cookie fun

Everyone is invited to United Methodist Women's 29th Annual Cookie Walk in Evergreen Park on Saturday, December 14th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Doors open at 9 a.m., Cookie Sale begins at 10 a.m. All fancy homemade Christmas cookies are sold by the pound at \$9. The First United Methodist Church is at 9358 S. Homan. Call 708-422-8451 for more.



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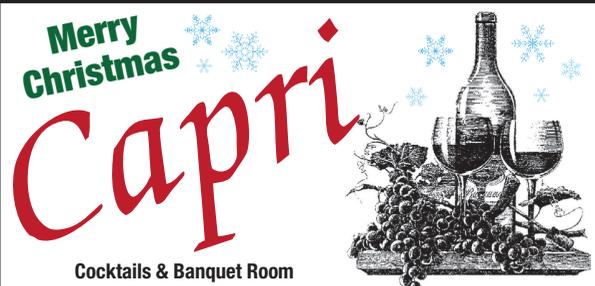
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Friday 11am-2pm 4pm-11pm, Saturday 4pm-11pm, Sunday 3pm-9pm



Oak Lawn Open Gym

The Oak Lawn Park District's Racquet, Fitness & Gymnastics Center has the perfect family, event. The new Holiday Open Gym event on Saturday, December 7th includes a meet and greet with Santa, an indoor snowball fight, and lots of climbing, jumping, and swinging in the gymnastics gym. Each child will have an opportunity to do a holiday craft, receive a holiday book and a goodie bag. Please bring your camera to capture a picture with Santa. Grown-ups are required to stay with their children during the event. Advance registration is required.

Event runs from 3:00 to 4:00pm for ages 1-8, from 4:15 to 5:15pm for ages 1-5, and from 5:15 to 6:15pm for ages 1-5. Fee is \$15.

For more information, call 708-857-2215

Library has a lot to offer

Toys for Tots Campaign: Bring holiday joy to those less fortunate! Drop-off gifts for children up to age 12 in the Oak Lawn Public Library's lobby, now through Dec. 19. Donations benefit Toys for Tots. Items should be unwrapped so that they may be sorted according to age and gender. No stuffed animals, please.

Gift Wrapping Help: Drop by our gift wrapping table on the 2nd floor, where teen volunteers will be available to wrap your holiday presents from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, Dec 7, 14 & 21, at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave. Wrapping paper and supplies provided.

Sunday with Friends Concerts, Mick Archer's Holiday Piano Sing-Along: Mick Archer entertains on piano with holiday classics that will have you singing along at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave. Concerts are sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library.

Snack & Study (Grades 9-12): Attention high



You can get a picture with Santa Saturday at the Oak Lawn Park District's Racquet, Fitness & Gymnastics Center.

school students! Are you studying for finals? Do you wish you had some snacks? Bring your books and your friends to Snack & Study at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Avenue, from Monday, Dec. 9 to Thursday, Dec. 19. Extra supplies and snacks will be provided. Hours for Snack & Study are:

- Monday-Thursday: 3-9 p.m.
- Friday: 3-6 p.m.
- Saturday & Sunday: 12-5 p.m.

Genealogy Club, Exploring Church Records in Chicago: Kathy O'Leary, Oak Lawn Librarian, will discuss church records in Chicago from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19 at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave.

For more information about this and other adult programs, call 708-422-4990 or visit www.olpl.org.

Library aims to welcome 'new adults'

While generational stereotypes might suggest otherwise, a study published in 2014 by the Pew Research Center concluded that Millennials (those born between 1981 and 1996) read books at the

same rate as older adults and are more likely to use the library than their older counterparts. However, looking around at a typical adult educational or entertainment-oriented program Midlothian Public Library, it might be hard to notice this fact, where Baby Boomers tend to make up the bulk of program attendees.

Midlothian Public Library is looking to change that by offering a series of social events specifically designed for people over 18 and under 40. "The research tells us that Millennials are using the library, and now that Generation Z (born between 1997 and 2012) is coming of age, we hope that they continue to use the library too," said Library Director Jennifer Cottrill. "But libraries are about more than just books and information today; they're social spaces, and we hope that all generations see the library as a space where they can not only learn but also hang out and feel welcome."

The program series will start with two trivia events: Christmas Movie Trivia on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and Resolutions Trivia on Friday, Jan. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. Both events will include snacks and prizes, and team registration is required. The

January event will be a special after-hours over-21 BYOB event, and ID's will be checked. Both events will be held at the library, located at 14701 Kenton Ave..

While these programs are designed for the target age group, individuals outside this age group may attend (with the exception of the over-21 event, where no one under 21 will be allowed entry). For more information or to register, contact the library at (708) 535-2027 and ask for the Help Desk or visit www.midlothianlibrary.org.

Christmas tree lighting, parade in Oak Forest

Join Mayor Hank Kuspa and Santa Claus as they ring in the holiday season at the annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday.

The parade kicks off at Oak Forest High School, 15201 Central Ave., at 11 a.m. and proceeds on Central Avenue to City Hall, 15440 Central Ave, Oak Forest. The tree lighting ceremony will be held at the

gazebo on City Hall Campus after the parade. After the ceremony, families can enjoy refreshments and visit with Santa Claus inside Fire Station 1. The trim-a-tree contest winners will be announced during the ceremony.

For more details visit our website or call City Hall at 708-687-4050 or oak-forest.org/Christmas.

Please consider donating an unwrapped toy to the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation. A donation box will be in the fire station.

2019-2020 Season

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What better way to welcome in the Holiday Season than with neighbors, family and friends at this annual Village event. As the Holiday Market opens, the grounds fill with the anticipation of Santa's arrival at 6:30 p.m. as he and Mayor John Mahoney illuminate the Village Tree.

THIS EVENT HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

VISIT WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY
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SANTA ARRIVES AT 6:30 PM
FOOD VENDORS & HOLIDAY MARKET




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Deputy chief certified by state chiefs of police

The City of Oak Forest is pleased to announce that the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) has honored Deputy Chief Jason Reid by being designated as a Certified Eligible Police Chief through the Association's Police Chief Certification Program. This designation signifies that Deputy Chief Reid has met the highest standards of competency and conduct for his profession.

To be eligible for consideration, those interested in pursuing certification must first meet the ILACP's criteria for experience, education, professional membership, and community involvement. In the first phase of the process, candidates must demonstrate extensive law enforcement experience, including command and executive posts, a solid educational background that encompasses continuing education and training, and an active participation in relevant professional and community organizations. After meeting these requirements, they are allowed to proceed with the certification examination, which tests their knowl-



Deputy Chief Jason Reid accepts a plaque from the ILACP. The plaque shows that Reid has met the highest standards of competency and conduct.

edge of managerial concepts, modern policing concepts, law and leading cases, and budgeting principles. Candidates who demonstrate their mastery in these areas must then face a panel of their peers, consisting of three active Illinois Police Chiefs. During the structured interview, the panel questions and evaluates the candidate in the areas of leadership, management, public relations, verbal communication and ethics. Only those who have successfully completed all phases of the assessment process are granted the distinction of a Certified Eligible Police Chief in Illinois. Deputy Chief Reid is among only a select few Illinois police command staff able to meet the stringent requirements of the

program since its inception in 1998.

Illinois is the only state in the U.S. that currently offers a Police Chief Certification Program based on an extensive, legally validated examination process. The ILACP, in conjunction with Stanard & Associates, Inc., a Chicago-based public safety consulting firm, oversaw a rigorous development and review process that involved police chiefs from across the state. The program is designed to recognize those law enforcement professionals who excel in all facets of the police chief function. To maintain certification status, police command staff must meet on-going requirements and apply for re-certification every 5 years.

Oak Lawn dancer earns rare chance to perform in Rome

In life, when that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity presents itself, a high school athlete has to simply reach out and grab it. Oak Lawn Community High School dancer Adriana Hall is doing just that over Winter Break. If fact, she is reaching out all the way to Rome, Italy to participate in something special.

This summer at the Universal Dance Association Camp, three Oak Lawn dancers were chosen as All-American recipients. These girls had to learn an extra routine, add in their own choreography, and perform in front of the entire camp. After hard work and solid performances, Hall, Casey Ostrowski, and Aaliyah Cook-Hill were the Spartans chosen to do this.

As a result, they were all given the opportunity to attend the New Year's Day parade in Rome, Italy. Hall jumped at the chance. She will be learning a routine and flying to Rome with her mother over Winter Break to perform.

"She is the first Oak Lawn dancer to attend this event, and we are so proud of her," said OLCCHS dance coach Alex

Young. "We really want her to be recognized for this opportunity."

This is the second consecutive year that Hall earned All-American status. She was recognized last year as a freshman as well.

"Most teams only offer their upper classmen a shot at making All-American, but Adriana's talent and passion for performance has proved her capable of winning this award from day one," said fellow OLCCHS dance coach Ryan Brandt. "We are so thankful to have her on our team to represent Oak Lawn."

So, this New Year's Day while high school students here in the United States are watching parades, watching football, and taking a break from school, Hall will be making a dream come true overseas. It is sure to be a moment she will remember for a lifetime.



Ariana Hall, an All-American for the second straight year, was chosen to perform in a New Year's parade in Rome. She's the first Oak Lawn dancer to earn the honor.

De La Salle entrance exam

De La Salle is holding its annual entrance exam for young people interested in attending our school as part of our Class of 2024.

Come to our campus at 3434 S. Michigan Ave. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 8 am. Bring \$25 for the test fee and two No. 2 pencils.

All students seeking admission to De La Salle should take the entrance exam at our Institute Campus on Test Day.

Please contact De La Salle's Director of Admissions, John Brogan, at (312) 842-7355 ext. 147 or broganj@dls.org for additional information.

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Brookfield Zoo lights up for the 38th year of holiday magic

This festive season, continue a tradition or start a new one with family and friends at Brookfield Zoo's 38th annual Holiday Magic, presented by ComEd and Meijer. The longest-running lights festival in the Chicagoland area features more than one million LED lights that will illuminate the zoo on Saturdays and Sundays, December 7-8, 14-15, and 21-22, as well as December 26-31. The zoo is open from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. during Holiday Magic. Guests can come early to enjoy the entire zoo

and stay late for the festivities beginning at 4:00 p.m. Many other magical activities taking place throughout the festive evenings include professional ice carving demonstrations, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus (through December 22), live musical and dance performances in the Holly Jolly Theater, and magic shows. Additionally, in the Riverside Room, guests can view "Santa's Toy Shop" model railroad display and decorate cupcakes (extra fee applies) at BZ Red Hots restaurant.

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Sauk-Calumet Sierra Club to hear from Peotone airport documentary filmmaker

The Sauk-Calumet Group of the Illinois Sierra Club will have its next meeting at 7:15 pm on Monday, December 9th at the Frankfort Public Library, 21119 Pfeiffer Rd. in Frankfort.

This month's presentation will be filmmaker Tom Desch's preview of his documentary film about the 20-year struggle between those who want to build an airport in Peotone and those (including Sierra Club) who are fighting to preserve the farmland and quality

of life in Will County.

Sierra Club is a grass roots environmental activist and conservation group with local chapters in all 50 states. It is the largest group of its kind in the U.S. For questions about the group and its activities, contact Patrick Coffey at patrick.coffey@illinois.sierraclub.org. Meetings are free and open to the public.

After the meeting, participants who choose to will meet at a local eatery for food and conversation.

Blue Island plans parade, more for holiday fun

Plans are underway for a fun-filled, family friendly day to kick off the Holiday Season. The highlight of the day will be the Blue Island Light Parade that will take place on Saturday, December 7th at 5:30 pm. It will begin at Western Ave. and Prairie, and go south to Grove Street.

After the parade, bring the kids over to the Santa House at High and Western to take their picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus, bring your phone or camera (from 6:30 pm until 9 pm). Thank you to Blue Island Park District and De Mars for making this memorable opportunity possible! There will also be free carriage rides after the parade, sponsored by McDonalds.

Earlier in the day, the Blue Island Public Library will be showing Christmas

movies from 1 pm to 4 pm. There will also be a Kringle Mart under the tents in the parking lot located at High and Western from 2 pm to 9 pm. Free pony, train and Ferris Wheel rides and a petting zoo are also available for the kids from 2 pm to 6 pm while you shop! Thank you to Tri State Disposal for sponsoring the train rides.

Your can do a little Christmas shopping or get something to eat at the annual Business Open Houses up and down Western Ave. The Blue Island Public Library will have their annual Open House, lighting their tree and serving refreshments following the parade as well, and Corona Real Estate is inviting everyone to enjoy a Taste of Blue Island after the parade.



Elizabeth Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* (Picador, 2014)

by Lorraine Schmall

Elizabeth Kolbert, a gifted wordsmith with a penchant for poetry, a passion for all living things great and small, and a proclivity for dangerous scientific exploration that makes Indiana Jones look like a milquetoast, writes an adventure book that examines disappearing but endearing species, brilliant but baffled scientists, and irresponsible or ignorant invaders. Before humans inhabited the earth there were Five Great Extinctions: natural events that caused the loss of between 75% and 90% of all species. Kolbert argues that the Sixth is upon us, citing scores of noted researchers and a Pulitzer Prize for science writing in her support.

In 1739, a French baron discovered mastodon molars in the Ohio River which intrigued amateur paleontologists like Louis XV and Thomas Jefferson. Eventually scientists like Georges Cuvier and Charles Darwin joined the research and debate. Could species become extinct? How? For a century, there was neither consensus nor certainty. Then Walter and Luis Alvarez found evidence in 1980 of the giant asteroid that smashed into the earth, crystallizing rock and vaporizing dinosaurs and plants in seconds. Extinction happened both gradually and cataclysmically.

The origins of Kolbert's Sixth Extinction are more diffuse: "it's logging and poaching; introduced pathogens and climate change; overfishing and ocean acidification" from carbon monoxide and poisonous chemicals and plastic waste. "People change the world." Not always for the good. Maybe almost never, from an earth history point of view. "Though it might be nice to imagine there once was a time when man lived in harmony with nature, it's not clear that he ever really did." Kolbert's not just whistling Dixie. This month's National Geographic features breath-taking pictures of endangered species, warning "soon all that's left of some of the planet's most vulnerable species may be the photographs of planets and animals collected in modern-day-Noah Joel Sartore's Photo Ark"—housed in his museum. Kolter suggests: "a hundred million years from now, all that we consider to be the great works of man—the sculptures and the libraries, the monuments and the museums, the cities and the factories—will be compressed into a layer of sediment not much thicker than a cigarette paper." An op-ed in yesterday's SunTimes reminds us that "climate change is threatening two-thirds of America's birds with extinction." California Firese. Iowa floods. Harsh.

This is a wonderful book: tender, frightening, uplifting, instructive. Like Rebecca Skloot's *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Kolbert translates "uneasy truths" into something we can understand and care about. The Chicago Public Library's latest pick for One Book, One Chicago, is a requiescat and an invocation. Get on your knees and read.

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Entertainment Theater
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Firebrand Theatre Presents Always...Patsy Cline by Ted Swindley running through December 15 at The Den Theatre 1331 N. Milwaukee Ave .tickets available online (firebrandtheatre.org) in Chicago a wonderful intimate performance space.

This fantastic musical is a "standing ovation," taking audiences back to the late '50's and early '60's. This true story is told from the point in time when Patsy meets her best friend, Louise at a show in Texas and their friendship told through narration, song and their many letters, unveil an intimate and often humorous portrait of a friendship between the two women from different but similar backgrounds.

The roles, features the talented Harmony France and Christina Hall in alternating performances, and the show features many of her most unforgettable hits such as "Crazy," "I Fall to Pieces," "Walking After Midnight," ...27 of her most beloved and well-known songs

The House Theatre of Chicago Celebrates the 10th Anniversary of their hit production of The Nutcracker, the company's Ballet-Free Adaptation of the Holiday Classic. The show will run through December 29 at The Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division, (773-769-3832).

This new adaption sparkles, as it unveils a new family portrait. There are new redesigned puppets, fresh sets, costumes, new original songs and dialogue in honor of a decade of this special family tradition. This modern version of a beloved holiday tradition brings together wonderful dialogue, incredible new puppetry, new songs and tells a wonderful tale of magic and hope. Truly a fun and the heartwarming story for the whole family.

Brightside Theatre, Naperville's only professional theatre performing in the historic downtown district at Theatre at Meiley-Swallow Hall at North Central College 31 S. Ellsworth Street (630-447-8497) celebrates The opening of Charles Dicken's Christmas Carol the Musical running until December 15th. The Christmas Season just wouldn't be the same without a bit of Scrooge! And "Bah Humbug"!

The musical version has played for 10 years at Madison Square Garden in New York and this Charles Dickens classic gets the full Broadway treatment. Heavy hitting composer and lyricist, Alan Menken and Lynn Ahrens bring the true spirit of Christmas with a heartwarming story of beauty and redemption. As Ebenezer Scrooge "Bah Humbugs" his way through life caring more about his money than people, he's suddenly visited by three Christmas ghosts. Through their guidance he learns to be humble and how much people mean. On Christmas morning he joyfully opens his heart and shouts "Happy Christmas"

Theatre at the Center 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana, (219-836-3255) presents Irving Berlin's White Christmas running through December 22, this play based on the joyful film, the musical adaptation of Irving Berlin's White Christmas and the standing ovation is a wonderful way to usher in the holiday season, with this family favorite; and it makes new memories and brings back old ones. So, get your jingle on and get ready to sing along.

Some Shows to Look Forward To: Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre will perform "Working" running December 6 through January 26, 2020 by Studs Turkel at the Howard Street Theatre 721 Howard Str., Evanston, Illinois (773-347-1109). **** Music Theater Works 600 Emerson St. Evanston (847-920-5360) will present "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" running December 21-31. An updated version of Andrew Lloyd Weber's first First big hit.

A Christmas classic returns

Acclaimed Chicago actor Larry Yando returns for his 12th season at Goodman Theatre as Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol, directed for the seventh year by Artistic Associate Henry Wishcamper. Dickens' holiday classic is the iconic tale of greedy businessman Ebenezer Scrooge, whose sizable bank account is only matched by his disdain for the holidays. One Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by four ghosts who take him on a spectacular adventure through his past, present and future, helping him rediscover the joys of life, love and friendship. It doesn't matter how many times you see this play, there is always something new and refreshing to get you into the holiday spirit.

A Christmas Carol appears until Dec. 29; Tickets are \$25 to \$89 are



Photo Credit: Liz Lauren

Larry Yando is returning for his 12th season as Ebenezer Scrooge in The Goodman Theatre's A Christmas Carol, based on a classic Dickens story.

available at GoodmanTheatre.org/ Carol, by phone at 312.443.3800 or at the box office 170 N. Dearborn. A limited amount of tickets \$35 for the

Spanish translated performance on December 26 at 7pm are now available with promo code SPANISH at GoodmanTheatre.org/Carol.

It's a Jolly Holiday with Drury Lane Theatre

Drury Lane Theatre's production of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins is one of the best superfragilistic play it is based on the stories of P. L.Travers and the beloved Walt Disney film and co-created by Cameron Mackintosh, this "practically perfect" musical includes a book by Julian Fellowes, original music and lyrics by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman, and new songs and additional music and lyrics by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe. Marcia Milgrom Dodge returns to Drury Lane to direct and choreograph this "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" production. Celebrate the magic with the whole family this holiday season; Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins Thru January 19, 2020, at Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace.

Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins flies to the stage delivering magic, whimsy, and enchantment through memorable songs and a timeless, heart-warming story. Nominated for seven tony Awards and based on the Acoademy Award-winning film and the beloved children's novels, the "practically



Mary Poppins takes flight at the Drury Lane Theatre's production of the classic story.

perfect" musical is a can't miss for the entire family.

The cast of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins features Emilie Lynn (Mary Poppins), James T. Lane (Bert), Matt Crowle (George Banks), and Alexis J. Roston (Mrs. Banks), with Grier Burkeman and Nicole Scimeca alternating in the role of "Jane Banks" and Hunter DiMailig and Sebastian Merlo alternating in the role of "Michael Banks." The cast also includes: Joe Capstick, Brian M. Duncan, Annie Jo Ermel, Alejandro Fonseca, Iris Lieberman, Amanda Compton LoPresti, Jenny McPherson, Johanna McKenzie Miller, Nathan Mittleman, Thomas Ortiz, Harriet Nzinga Plumpp, Marisa Riegle, Sam Shankman, Sawyer Smith, Catherine Smitko, Holly Stauder, Davon Suttles, Martin Ortiz Tapia, and Bret Tuomi. The creative team includes: Josh Walden (Co-Choreographer), Paul Rubin (Flight Director), Jim Steinmeyer

(Illusion Designer), Roberta Duchak (Music Director), Kevin Depinet (Scenic Designer), Robin L. McGee (Costume Designer), Paul Miller (Lighting Designer), Ray Nardelli (Sound Designer), Kevan Loney (Projection Designer), Robert Hornbostel (Projection Engineer), Claire Moores (Wig Designer), Cassy Schillo (Props Designer), and Kate DeVore (Dialect Coach). The Production Stage Manager is Larry Baker. Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins is rated G.

Ask for the dining and show packages or for individual tickets call the Drury Lane Theatre Box Office at 630-530-0111 or visit DruryLaneTheatre.com.

The Nutcracker will appear until Dec. 29th

by Annette Dixon

Several changes for the better from Christopher

Wheeldon in this production, gives the audience an understanding of people who lived during the period of the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. The actors gave a great performance in their dance inactions and still telling the same story, The Nutcracker of years past.

Tickets are available at the Auditorium by calling 312-386-8905.

Waiting for Godot ends Dec. 15 at Victory Garden

by Annette Dixon

This French play was first performed in Paris in the year, 1953. Personally I enjoyed this production more this time than the first time I saw it, at least a decade ago.

It was written by the Irish playwright Samuel Beckett and directed by the veteran director Dennis Zacek. The two actors who were waiting for Godot, but, Godot doesn't ever appear, gave meaningful entertainment to the audience.

Larry Neumann Jr. as Vladimir, Michael Saad as Estragon kept us awake.

See this play and judge for yourself. It is a great one and most difficult to do for both director and actors.

Tickets are available at victorygardens.org

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How to put a bow on holiday health care conversations

(NAPS)—With the holidays just around the corner, there will be plenty of time to catch up with family. Beyond sharing cookie recipes and shopping for Black Friday deals, the holidays are also the perfect time to check in with parents (and grandparents) about their health care. Knowing what to ask and say to aging family members can be difficult but it's important that your loved ones have the protection they need for future medical costs. Here are three tips for having a productive discussion:

1. Frame the conversation. Accepting assistance from children or grandchildren might be difficult for family members who are accustomed to managing their own health care needs. Instead of asking to talk about health care options directly, offer to help navigate online platforms, searches and comparisons. Some older adults are likely more

comfortable receiving assistance with technology than health issues.

2. Think beyond what they already have. Since the mere thought of



changing health insurance can seem daunting, your family member might tell you that what they already have is, "fine." But plans change year to year and, as

family members age, their needs change too. Help them understand that reviewing their coverage options doesn't have to be difficult and that they might

benefit from a new plan—and even save money. Case in point: A recent eHealth analysis of people using eHealthMedicare.com to compare Medicare plans

found that fewer than one in ten were enrolled in the lowest cost plan for their personal prescription drug regimen. Those who switched to their optimal drug plan stood to save an average of \$1,144 per year.

3. Picking a plan is not the last step. We've all had it happen. You set up a new gadget for a relative that should improve their life but when you check in a few weeks later, you learn the device has not been touched. Needless to say, you want to avoid this scenario when it comes to your family's health care. Once they've picked out a plan, make sure your family member knows what is included and how to access those services. In other words, check back to make sure they are taking advantage of their coverage.

Your family can have happier, healthier holidays for years to come if you take some time to review your health care options.

Orland Park library events

- **Holly Jolly Storytime:** 10 a.m. Dec. 5. Celebrate the HO-HO-Holiday season with stories, songs, and a special visitor from the North Pole. All ages.

- **Writers Group for Adults:** 7 p.m. Dec. 5. Have your novel, short story, non-fiction, poem, reviewed by an open group for adults.

- **Bright Starts Family Storytime:** 10 a.m. Dec. 7. Start your weekend off right! Bring the family together for stories, songs, and fun!

Orland Park Public Library is at 14921 Ravinia Ave. More information is available by calling 708-428-5205 or going to www.orlandparklibrary.org

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Postal tips for a less-stressed holiday

(NAPS)—The U.S. Postal Service plans for its peak season all year long. With more than 240 years of experience delivering the holidays, the Postal Service is uniquely qualified to make this magical season the best one yet. Here are some tips to help everyone have a happier, less-stressed holiday by getting greeting cards and packages delivered on time and intact.

For the complete list of mailing and shipping deadlines, go to usps.com/holidaynews.

Sneak a Peek

Informed Delivery notifications make it possible for customers to receive an email every morning with images of incoming mail and packages. To sign up, go to informedelivery.com, where customers can:

- Receive text messages or e-mail alerts notifying that a package is en route and additional notifications when the package has been delivered.
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